# Rhode Island Historical Society Collections

Vol. XVI April, 1923 No. 2

Mary Wanton wife of Governor Joseph Wanton
From original in the possession of the Rhode Island Historical Society

*See page 41*

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## ILLUSTRATIONS


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RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

COLLECTIONS

Vol. XVI April, 1923 No. 2

HOWARD W. PRESTON, *President* EDWARD K. ALDRICH, Jr., *Treasurer*
GEORGE T. SPICER, *Secretary* HOWARD M. CHAPIN, *Librarian*

**The Society assumes no responsibility for the statements or the opinions of contributors.**

# The Discovery of the Real Palatine Ship.

Whittier's well-known poem, "The Palatine," has immortalized the Palatine Ship, its wreck upon Block Island, and the various weird and fantastic traditions in regard to its annual reappearance as a fiery phantom ship. The facts in connection with the wreck have been very vague. The date of its occurrence has been placed variously in the years 1719, 1720, 1747, 1752 and 1755. The traditions of the Palatine ship, as might be expected, vary in many details.[1] The principal points common to the various stories, are that a ship carrying emigrants from the Palatine sailed from Holland, bound for Pennsylvania and that after a long passage, during which many of the passengers died, the vessel was wrecked on Block Island. Some 16 or 17 surviving passengers were landed, but that of these "three only survived, who remained and became inhabitants of the island."

[1]Book Notes IV, 87, also II, 52, 93; IV, 93; XXVIII, 133; Narra. Hist. Reg. I, 152; V, 253; Sheffield's Block Island, p. 39; Livermore's Block Island, p. 112; Points of Hist. Interest in R. I., p. 86; *Providence Journal* Aug. 26, 1894, *Tribune* Apr. 15, 1906, and *Newport Mercury* Aug. 6, 1904, Aug. 13, 1904, and July 29, 1905.

In examining some old Boston newspapers I recently found five items that identify the "Palatine Ship" as a real ship that was wrecked on Block Island the day after Christmas, December 26, 1738. These items are as follows: "Newport, January 11. We are informed by a Letter from a Gentleman in Block Island, dated the 1st Instant to the Hon. John Wanton, Esq. our Governor, that a large ship about 300 Tons, was Cast away on that island the 26th of December last, reckon'd to be worth twenty Thousand Pounds Sterling Ship & Cargo, which came from Rotterdam last August, but last from Cows, having on Board 340 Palatine Passengers & Servants bound to Philadelphia, but near 200 of them dy'd in their Passage, the remainder came on Shore, 20 of whom are dead since they came on the Island.

Upon this melancholly News, our Governour sent a Magistrate and other proper Officers yesterday to Block Island to see how Matters are, that these poor People, may have Justice done them."—(*Boston Gazette*)

"New-Port, Rhode Island January 12, 1738.9

We are informed by a Letter from Block-Island, dated the first Instant, to the Hon. John Wanton, Esq; our Governour, That a large Ship of about 300 Tons: was cast away on said Island the 26th of December last; she was very Rich, reckon'd to be worth Twenty Thousand Pounds Sterling; she came from Rotterdam last August, but last from Cowes in England, having on board 340 Palatine Passengers and Servants bound to Philadelphia; but having a long Passage near 200 of them died while on it; the Remainder came on Shore, and 20 of them are dead since they came on the Island

Their Captain, whose Name was Long, died in the Passage, and his Mate took the Charge of the Ship as Captain and Commander, after the said Long's Death; and he being often desired by some of the Gentlemen of the Island, to suffer the Passengers to take their Goods out of the Ship, he absolutely refused it; tho' many of them saved their Silver and Gold: Tho' all possible Means were used to prevent clandestine Actions, many have lost by Extortion and other ways, a great Part of the little which they saved.

After the Ship broke to pieces there was abundance of Goods came ashore, but the Owners cannot have any of them, without paying a third Salvage, besides which a great Part of them are confiscated, together with great Quantities of Silver and Gold: In short, Tongue and Pen cannot relate the present Circumstances of the poor Palatines, whose Number is said to be but only 85 Persons.

Upon this melancholy News our Governor sent a Magistrate and other proper Officers to Block-Island, to see how Matters are, that those poor People may have Justice done them."—(*Boston News-Letter*)

"New-Port, Rhode Island January 19.

Last Tuesday Night arrived here Peter Bourse, Esq; with the rest of the proper Officers that were sent by our Authority to Block-Island, to inspect into the Affairs of those poor distressed People the Palatines, by whom we are informed as follows:

That the Ship mentioned in our last Print stranded upon Block-Island, being chiefly owned by Persons belonging to Ramsgate in England, and commanded by George Long, left Plymouth sometime in August bound for Philadelphia, with about Four Hundred Palatines on Board, which they took in at Rotterdam: That an exceeding bad Fever and Flux prevail'd among them; That but about One Hundred & Five were landed upon Block-Island; and that since their Arrival there, their Illness continuing, the Number is reduced to about Ninety. Capt. Long, with several of the Marriners, died on the Passage. The chiefest Reason assign'd for so great a Mortality, is the badness of their Water taken in at Rotterdam in Casks that had before contained White and Red Wines. The Hull of the Ship (which had no Cargo in belonging to the Owners of her) together with the chiefest Part of the Goods of the Palatines are entirely lost in the Sea; great Care has been taken by the Authority, that what is saved may be secured for the Benefit of those surviving distressed People, many of whom it is said left their Country, purely to enjoy their religions Priviledges in America."—(*Boston Gazette* and also *Boston News-Letter*)

"Rhode-Island, March 16.

Last Wednesday arrived here Fifty Palatines from Block-Island, viz Men, Women and Children, who sail for Philadelphia with the first fair Wind.

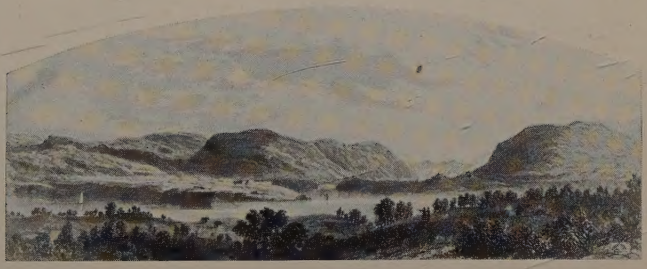
Mr. Boydell,

SIR,

In your Gazzette No. 991. you inform the Publick of a Letter from a Gentleman in Block Island, to John Wanton, Esq; Governour, that a Ship was cast away on this Island in her Passage from Rotterdam to Philadelphia, with a considerable Number of Palatines; on which melancholly News the Governor sent proper Officers to said Island to see that those poor People might have Justice done. In the mean while the Officers here must consequently sit as idle Drones without any Regard unto those unfortunate People. And forasmuch as I am a constant Reader of your NewsPaper, I pray you to insert the following Account in your next: Those on the Spot being best capable to relate the Affair, that the World may judge whether said Officers discharged their Duty.

When first the Ship came to shoar the Captain went to advise with the principal Officer, who speedily repaired with him to the Ship, which lay on the North End of the Island, with her Bowsprit over the Land, being a steep Shore and sandy Bottom; the said Officer told him, she would go off again; he answered in the Negative, and said a Peice of her bottom was drove on shore, and that she had a great deal of Water in the Hold; on which he was advised to let go his Sheet Anchor, lest she should go off with the Palatines Goods, which he with much entreaty comply'd with; at which Time the Officers with many others made it their care and business to get on shore the distressed Passengers, and begged the Captain's Assistance, which he denied: However that Day was got on shore most of them. The Officers aforesaid, with many of the Inhabitants here begg'd of the Captain to suffer their Chests &c to be brought on shore (being in great Danger) and also to supply the Distressed with some Provision for present Sustenance, which he would not comply with, tho' at the same Time he told he had fifteen thou-

Pewter Button from the uniform worn by the Rhode Island Regiment in the Revolution. This is the only known specimen of the Rhode Island Revolutionary button and is now in the Museum of the Rhode Island Historical Society.



Contemporary view of the camp at Hudson Highlands, N. Y., where the Rhode Island regiment encamped in 1782. The camp is shown at the base of the mountain at the right. The Rhode Island button was found in this camp.

The ship Corea of Providence, Capt. Daniel Jackson. Painted on glass in 1840 by P. Weytz at Antwerp.

From a painting in the possession of Benjamin M. Jackson.

sand weight of Bread on board, but could not answer breaking of bulk; and he had got all the Goods belonging to himself and Sailors on shore. But the greatest Difficulty was in transporting those Objects of Pity, carrying some in Blankets, some on Mens backs, others on Horses (the Snow being deep) to two Cottages, a Mile from the Ship, the most of those People being sick, froze and almost starved, and two of the Women were froze to Death on the Beach before our People came to their Assistance; the next Day many of our People went to said Ship, and was told the Ship floated in the Night, and waited the Captain's coming ashore, whom the Officer here as well as many of the Inhabitants, again importuned with him, to have Compassion on those distressed Objects, in giving them Bread &c. having eat nothing in two Days, and also to suffer their Goods to be brought on shore, which Request he did not absolutely deny, but said he could not spare his Boat, nor any of his Men, he having occasion for them in saving the Tackling of said Ship; he was answered by the Officers &c. if he would give leave they would get on shore their Goods &c. he said he had more regard to the saving said Tacking &c. than in saving the Palatines Goods, and little or nothing was done; in the mean time, the Distressed greatly suffered, being obliged to go 4, 5, 6 Miles, to get them Provisions, no Inhabitants being nearer. The Captain did order to unbend the Cable from the aforesaid Anchor (as his Men and others whom he had employed testify) and the next Day the Ship was a-drift with all the Palatines Goods and Money &c. and by several we are informed with two living Souls. Some of the Neighbours went in a small Vessel on board said Ship, and took out 20 Chests, with a considerable quantity of their Goods, which were brought on shore and housed; and the next Day the said Ship came on shore on the west side of the Island, where she stove to pieces, the Wind being at W. considerable of the Goods &c. came on shore much damnified; and the Authority here used their endeavour to secure the same for the Use of the proper Owners. Many clandestine Actions were done, for the preventing of which the principal Officer here granted a Precept to a Constable to seize the aforesaid Goods, in

the Execution of which the Authority was abused, and the Officer exposed.

On which a Letter was writ to the Governour to represent that Affair, who sent a superior Officer to suppress such insolences. Peter Bours and Hezekiah Carpenter, Esqrs; came and were very helpful in suppressing those Insolences and advising in the aforesaid Premises, and the Officers here have made it their chief Business, to see the distressed provided for, and that no Injustice or Extortion be done to them, and the aforesaid Goods disposed of to the best Advantage for defraying their Charge, and the Remainder to be equally divided among them; also a most secret and solemn Oath administred to all Persons suspected to have any of those People's Goods &c. that the same forth with be delivered for their Use; and a Committee was chose to see that no Extortion should be used on those poor People, and that in all Cases Justice should be done, which Committee were engaged to the same.

S Ray,
John Dickens,
Ackurs Tosh
Thomas Dickens
Nathanael Littlefield } Committee."

Test. March
2d. 1738

(*Boston Gazette*)

It will be noted that these contemporary newspaper items not only give a real account of the real Palatine ship, but refute aspersions cast on the Block Islanders by some of the traditions followed by Whittier, and vindicate the character of the inhabitants as a whole.

H. M. C.

# Notes

A pewter button lettered "R I R" and worn by a Rhode Island soldier during the Revolution has been given to the Society by Mr. W. L. Calver of New York, and is illustrated in this issue of the *Collections.*

The following persons have been admitted to membership in the Society:

Mr. Sydney R. Burleigh
Mrs. Janet B. Guild
Mr. John Luther Howland
Mr. George Hurley
Miss Gladys R. Lane
Mrs. William B. Mason
Mr. Edward S. Moulton
Mrs. William P. Young

Mr. J. E. C. Farnham has presented to the Society a handsomely bound complete file of the proceedings of the Grand Lodge, I. O. O. F., of Rhode Island.

An illustrated account of the Rhode Island Historical Society was printed in the *Providence Sunday Journal* of November 19, 1922.

The thorough and interesting "History of Groton, Conn.," by Mr. Charles R. Stark of Providence, which has just been issued, is a welcome addition to our shelves.

A new genealogical work of interest to many Rhode Islanders is the "Ancestry of Jeremy Clarke" by Alfred R. Justice.

The Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station has issued a pamphlet entitled "Horse Raising in Colonial New England" by Deane Phillips. A considerable portion of this work is devoted to a study of the Narragansett Pacer.

An illustrated account of the old cannon, which may be seen in Providence and vicinity, appeared in the *Providence Sunday Journal* for November 26, 1922.

The Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society for October, 1921, which has recently been issued, contains an article on "Oaths of Allegiance" in which over eight pages are devoted to a study of the *oath* or *affirmation* required by law in Rhode Island.

The Society of Colonial Wars in Rhode Island has issued "An account of the Rhode Island Colony Sloop *Tartar,*" which served as the colony's warship in King George's War (1740-1748). The official documents relating to the *Tartar* are printed in full. This is one of the few life histories of Rhode Island vessels that have been printed. Accounts of a cruise of the colonial privateer *Prince Charles of Lorraine* and of the 1812 privateer *Yankee* were printed in Munro's "Tales of an Old Seaport," and of the Revolutionary privateer *Providence* in pamphlet form.

The Trade Book of the Rhode Island slaver *Adventure* of Newport has been printed from the original manuscripts in the library of George L. Shepley, with an interesting introduction and comprehensive notes by Prof. Verner W. Crane.

An account of the first ship *"Ann & Hope"* was published in the *Rhode Island Historical Magazine,* vol. 5, p. 92.

A deed from Robert Williams of Providence dated 1664-5 was witnessed by Roger Williams and Sam. Barnard. (Prov. Deeds I, p. 4.) It is quite possible that this Sam. Barnard was a brother of Mary Barnard, Roger Williams' wife, and identical with the Capt. Barnard mentioned by William Harris in 1666. (Some William Harris Memoranda, 1896.) This may serve as a clue to genealogical work in England in connection with the ancestry of Mary (Barnard) Williams.

Mr. C. P. Olney has given to the Society the Family Bible containing the record of the Elisha Olney family.

"L'evolution de la Race Française en Amerique" (Montreal, 1921) contains a chapter on the French Canadian immigration to Rhode Island.

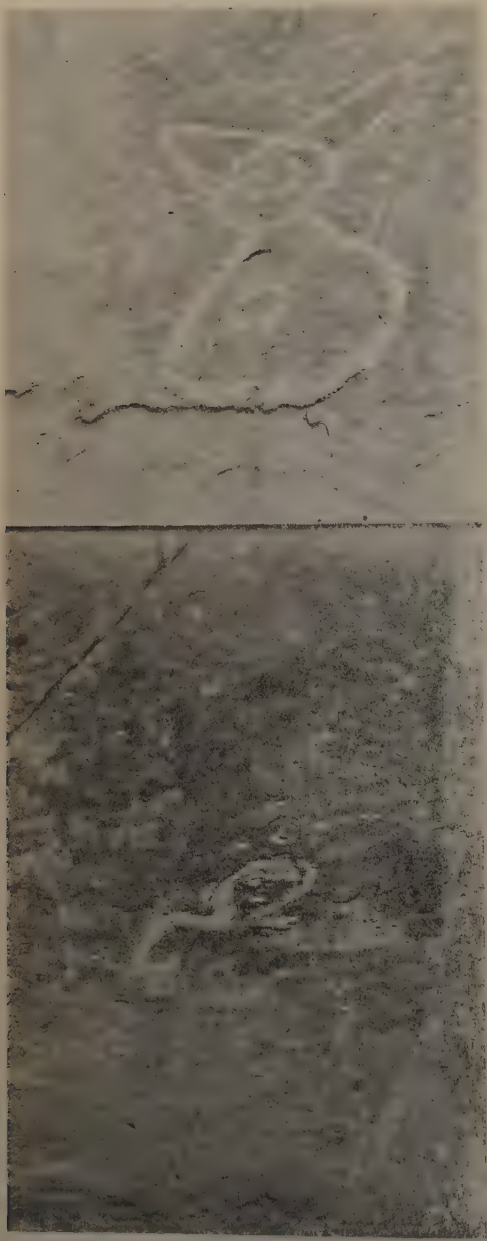
Mr. Percy Coe Eggleston's "Lincoln in New England" includes several references to Lincoln at Providence.

A biographical sketch of Usher Parson, by F. L. Pleadwell, which appeared in the U. S. Naval Medical Bulletin, vol. 17, has been reprinted in pamphlet form.

The Society has been fortunate in obtaining the original manuscript census return of 1798 for the town of Smithfield.

A series of illustrated Sunday afternoon talks has been held by the Society this season.

The Mark Rock Ledge. Photograph by John R. Hess, May 19, 1920.



Mark Rock glyphs *a* (upper left), *b* (lower left), and *c* (right); photographed by John R. Hess, June 1, 1920.

*Wanton Portrait.*

The portrait of Mary Winthrop Wanton, daughter of John Still Winthrop and wife of Governor Joseph Wanton of Rhode Island, which is reproduced on the cover of this issue of the *Collections,* has been accredited to the English artist, John Hudson. This portrait, together with the one of Governor Wanton, also ascribed to Hudson, had been inherited by Mrs. Destailleur of New Forest, Hampshire, England, from whom they were purchased by Edward Perry Warren, Esq., who brought them to this country in 1891, and gave them to the Society, thanks to the kindly efforts of Mr. Daniel Berkeley Updike of Boston.

Mr. Lawrence Park, a leading authority on early portraits, writes: "It is almost identical in every respect, with the exception of the face, to the Smibert of Mrs. Epes Sargent and I have used photographs of these two pictures to prove my point that Smibert kept in stock headless portraits from which his prospective sitters would make a selection. I think that the portrait of Mr. Wanton has been attributed to Hudson as well as that of his wife, but I feel very sure that this also is by Smibert."

**Aldrich House, Providence, opened January 2, 1860**
**Destroyed by fire February 15 and 16, 1888**

# Report of the Treasurer

## GENERAL ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR 1922.

EDWARD K. ALDRICH, JR., *Treasurer, in account with the* RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY. For current account, viz.:

DR.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| CASH ON HAND January 1, 1922 | | |
| In Providence Institution for Savings | $832 00 | |
| " Rhode Island Hospital Trust Company | 287 00 | |
| " National Exchange Bank | 281 40 | |
| " National Bank of Commerce (Checking Account) | 249 24 | |
| " National Bank of Commerce (Special Account No. 1) | 87 43 | |
| " National Bank of Commerce (Special Account No. 2) | 544 54 | |
| " National Bank of Commerce (Special Account No. 3) | 2,747 20 | |
| " Rhode Island Hospital Trust Company (James H. Bugbee Fund, balance) | 28 45 | |
| Special Account No. 1, U. S. Treasury Certificates | 2,017 87 | |
| Check | 125 00 | |
| | | $7,200 13 |
| Receipts from Annual Dues | $1,952 00 | |
| " " Books | 76 01 | |
| " " Franklin Lyceum Fund—Interest | 29 66 | |
| " " Interest and Dividends | 3,870 73 | |
| " " Newspaper Account | 127 26 | |
| " " Publications | 136 75 | |
| " " Rental of Rooms | 10 00 | |
| " " State Appropriation | 1,500 00 | |
| " " Special Account No. 1 | 68 98 | |
| " " Special Account No. 2 | 332 50 | |
| " " Special Account No. 3 | 77 43 | |
| " " Supplies | 8 00 | |
| " " Investments | 6,728 13 | |
| " " Life Membership (Richard Welling) | 50 00 | |
| " " Transfer from Special Account No. 2 | 100 00 | |
| | | 15,067 45 |
| | | $22,267 58 |

Cr.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Annual Dues (Refund) | $1 00 | |
| Ashes | 50 30 | |
| Binding | 288 25 | |
| Books | 568 32 | |
| Electric Lighting | 16 22 | |
| Exhibitions | 106 23 | |
| Expenses | 316 74 | |
| Franklin Lyceum Memorial Fund | 14 22 | |
| Fuel | 333 41 | |
| Gas | 8 04 | |
| Grounds and Building | 151 15 | |
| Investments | 7,555 45 | |
| Janitorial Services | 377 69 | |
| Newspaper Account | 260 61 | |
| Publications | 1,037 72 | |
| Salaries | 3,616 00 | |
| Supplies | 169 12 | |
| Telephone | 62 49 | |
| Water | 8 00 | |
| Special Account No. 1 | 398 70 | |
| Special Account No. 2 | 877 04 | |
| Transfer to Special Account No. 2 | 100 00 | |
| Interest | 20 97 | |
| | | $16,337 67 |

Cash on Hand December 31, 1922

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| In Providence Institution for Savings | $439 50 | |
| " Rhode Island Hospital Trust Company | 287 00 | |
| " National Bank of Commerce (Special Account No. 1) | 1,775 58 | |
| " National Bank of Commerce (Special Account No. 3) | 2,824 63 | |
| " National Bank of Commerce (Checking Account) | 270 34 | |
| " National Exchange Bank | 202 86 | |
| Checks | 130 00 | |
| | | 5,929 91 |
| | | $22,267 58 |

## REPORT OF THE TREASURER.

EDWARD K. ALDRICH, JR., *Treasurer, in account with the* RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

JANUARY 1, 1923.

LIABILITIES.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Grounds and Building | | $25,000 00 |
| Permanent Endowment Fund: | | |
| Samuel M. Noyes | $12,000 00 | |
| Henry J. Steere | 10,000 00 | |
| James H. Bugbee | 6,000 00 | |
| Charles H. Smith | 5,000 00 | |
| Charles W. Parsons | 4,000 00 | |
| William H. Potter | 3,000 00 | |
| Esek A. Jillson | 2,000 00 | |
| John Wilson Smith | 1,000 00 | |
| William G. Weld | 1,000 00 | |
| Charles C. Hoskins | 1,000 00 | |
| Charles H. Atwood | 1,000 00 | |
| | | $46,000 00 |
| Publication Fund: | | |
| Ira B. Peck | $1,000 00 | |
| William Gammell | 1,000 00 | |
| Albert J. Jones | 1,000 00 | |
| William Ely | 1,000 00 | |
| Julia Bullock | 500 00 | |
| Charles H. Smith | 100 00 | |
| | | $4,600 00 |
| Life Membership Fund | | $4,750 00 |
| Franklin Lyceum Memorial Fund | | 734 52 |
| Special Account No. 1 (National Bank of Commerce) | | 1,775 58 |
| Special Account No. 3 (National Bank of Commerce) | | 2,824 63 |
| | | $85,684 73 |
| Accumulated Surplus | | 10,508 69 |
| | | $96,193 42 |

ASSETS.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Investments: | | | |
| Grounds and Building | | | $25,000 00 |
| $5,000.00 Bonds, The New York Edison Company | $5,447 85 | | |
| $4,000.00 Bonds, Cedar Rapids Manufacturing & Power Company | 3,228 88 | | |
| $3,000.00 Bonds, The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company | 2,565 42 | | |
| 125 Shares, New York Central Railroad Company | 12,500 00 | | |
| 111 Shares, Pennsylvania Railroad Company | 7,188 45 | | |
| 30 Shares, Lehigh Valley Railroad Company | 2,112 50 | | |
| 6 Shares, Lehigh Valley Coal Sales Company | 241 85 | | |
| 40 Shares, Milwaukee Electric Railway & Light Company, preferred | 3,900 00 | | |
| 55 Shares, American Telephone & Telegraph Company | 7,123 61 | | |
| 60 Shares, Providence Gas Company | 5,005 68 | | |
| Mortgage, P. A. and H. A. Cory | 2,975 00 | | |
| 10 Shares, Duquesne Light Company, preferred | 1,060 00 | | |
| $1,000.00 Bond, Denver Gas & Electric Company | 950 00 | | |
| $1,000.00 Bond, Columbus Railway, Power & Light Company | 970 00 | | |
| 30 Shares, Merchants National Bank, Providence | 1,800 00 | | |
| 45 Shares, Blackstone Canal National Bank, Providence | 1,050 00 | | |
| $1,000.00 Liberty Bond (U. S.), 2nd 4¼ | 956 14 | | |
| $100.00 Liberty Bond (U. S.), Victory 4¾ | 100 00 | | |
| 6 Shares, Narragansett Electric Lighting Company | 335 00 | | |
| $3,400.00 Liberty Bonds (U. S.) 4th, 4¼ | 2,976 81 | | |
| Participation Account in Industrial Trust Company, Franklin Lyceum Memorial Fund | 734 52 | | |
| $1,000.00 Bond, The Government of the Dominion of Canada 5% | 991 50 | | |
| 10 Shares, Union Tank Car, preferred, 7% | 1,050 25 | | |
| | | | $65,263 51 |
| Cash on hand: | | | |
| In Providence Institution for Savings | $439 50 | +$16 64 | |
| " Rhode Island Hospital Trust Company | 287 00 | | |
| " National Bank of Commerce (Special Account No. 1) | 1,775 58 | | |
| " National Bank of Commerce (Special Account No. 3) | 2,824 63 | | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| In National Bank of Commerce (Checking Account) | 270 34 | |
| " National Exchange Bank | 202 86 | |
| Checks | 130 00 | |
| | | $5,929 91 |
| Total Assets | | $96,193 42 |

Respectfully submitted
EDWARD K. ALDRICH, Jr.
*Treasurer*
Providence, R. I., January 6, 1923.

Examined vouchers and securities compared and found to agree. Except an item of $16.64 interest on deposit in Providence Institution for Savings, which will appear in the 1923 statement.

HORATIO A. HUNT
ARTHUR P. SUMNER
HENRY W. SACKETT
*Auditing Committee*

# The Inscribed Rocks of Narragansett Bay

## By Edmund B. Delabarre

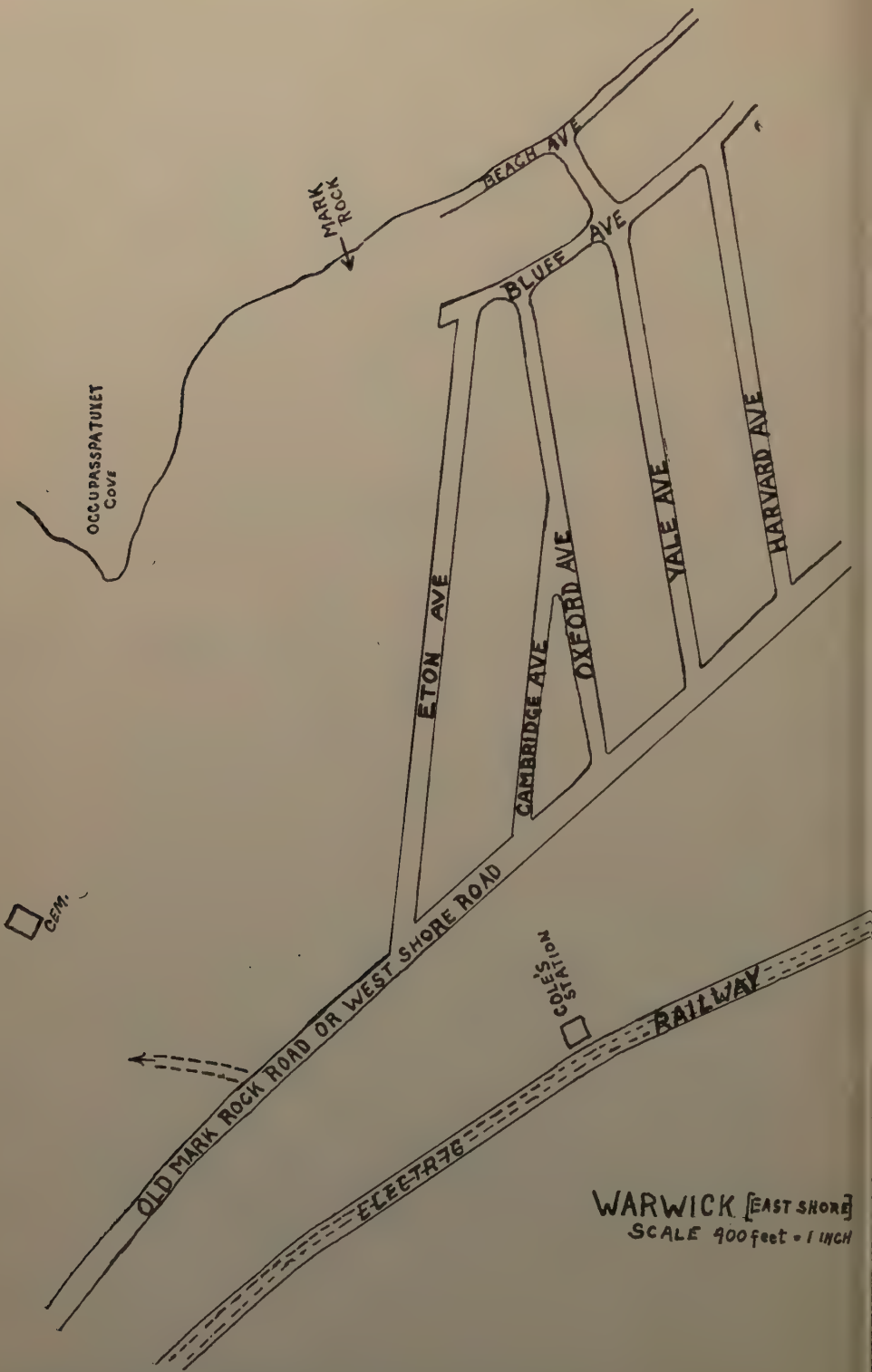
## VI. "Mark Rock" in Warwick.

The most astonishing fact in all the history of the pictured rocks that we are studying is that one of the most interesting, instructive and easily accessible of them all seems never to have been mentioned in print as a rock bearing inscriptions. Many of its sculptured designs are clear and unmistakable. Some of them are as worn and dim and present an appearance of as great age as do those on any of the other rocks of this region. It lies within less than ten miles from Providence, close by an estate that was once a brilliant centre of social, intellectual and political life. It received a distinctive name, and gave its name to the whole neighboring locality, which was for a time a well-known shore resort. Yet while Dighton Rock became famous and other petroglyphs about the Bay were joined with it as

objects of controversy, this one slumbered in obscurity. Its name was widely enough known, but only as applied to the locality about it. No one seems ever to have written a word about the rock itself and the curious records on it. Dr. Ezra Stiles, indefatigable searcher after "written rocks," lodged once less than half a mile away, yet never heard of it. Dr. Thomas H. Webb, no less eager to discover every "Inscription Rock" within reach, heard rumors of it but could not find it. How it could have been so near and so well known locally, and yet have remained so concealed from everyone interested in observing and describing such objects, is a mystery as great as that of the origin of the dispute-provoking records themselves, here and elsewhere. Now that it emerges from its long-guarded retirement, it bids fair to give more aid than any of its fellows in unveiling the mystery that has clothed them all.

My own first knowledge of it was due to Mr. Howard M. Chapin of this Society, who had met with the usual vague rumors of its existence, but learned of its exact location only after much difficulty, many futile inquiries and long delay. It is situated in the town of Warwick, on the west side of the Bay, seven miles distant in direct line from the State House in Providence and nearly two miles farther by road. The accompanying map, Plate XXI, indicates its exact position. It may be reached from Providence either by taking the cars of the Buttonwoods line to Cole's Station, or by following the highway passing west of Pawtuxet to the first left-hand main branch, which has been known at various times as "River Road," "Shawomet Avenue," "Old Mark Rock Road," and "West Shore Road," the latter being its present designation. The "avenues" shown on the map, leading eastward to the shore, are at present unfinished roads and are not actually named as the map indicates, "Yale Avenue" being labeled "Rock Avenue," and the rest of them without name-signs.

The known history of the rock is easily surveyed. Its older inscriptions must have been already long in existence at the time when Dr. Stiles wrote down in his Itinerary, on July 23, 1770,




Map of vicinity of Mark Rock in Warwick, reproduced from Richards' Standard Atlas of the Providence Metropolitan District, 1917, volume 2, map 26.

that he "rode to W° Greens at Occupestuxet,"[1] where he remained for the night. The Widow Greene of that day was Mary Almy, who died in 1777, wife of John Greene of the fourth generation in Warwick, who died in 1762. Unfortunately, no one there seems to have known of his keen interest in such relics and so did not inform him of this one in the close vicinity. They must have been still there when Dr. Webb, on November 16, 1835, reported to the Trustees of the Rhode Island Historical Society that on the preceding July 31 he had unsuccessfully sought to locate a rumored Inscription Rock in Warwick.[2] The earliest actual mention of the rock that I can find is in a deed of March 26, 1847, from Sarah Cole to her three sons, in which the southeasterly boundary of the property conveyed is described as "at the shore near the marked rocks (so called)."[3] Twice only I have seen the name in print as applied to the rock itself, but unaccompanied by any description: first in a list of rocks in Warwick given in J. R. Cole's History of Washington and Kent Counties (1889, p. 921), and second on the map of 1917 from which our Plate XXI is reproduced.

As a place-name of the surrounding region, however, Mark Rock is not infrequently mentioned. It was so designated, no doubt, because, as Sarah Cole's deed shows, its "marked rocks (so called)" were already thus locally celebrated. When the name was first given to the locality we do not know. Mr. Fred A. Arnold informs me that he used to visit the place as early as 1855, when it was already known as Mark Rock and was a well-known small shore resort used for family parties. In 1865, Moses Greene leased "the whole length of Mark Rock Shore," after which, with a change of lessees in 1867, a wharf was built, the steamer What Cheer made regular trips between it and Providence, shore dinners were served, and it became a somewhat noted and not always particularly reputable place of resort until the buildings were destroyed by fire some time previous to

[1]Manuscript Itinerary, vol. iii, p. 111. On the following page he carefully spelled out the word "Occupessuatuxet."

[2]Manuscript Correspondence and Reports of the Society, vol. ii, p. 74.

[3]Warwick Land Evidence, Book 26, p. 303.

1878.[1] The name Mark Rock is applied to the locality on maps between 1872 and 1881.[2] "Coles" is given as an alternative name on a map of 1877, and "Riverdale" appears instead in 1895.[3] The name Mark Rock seems now to have wholly disappeared, and for many years the locality has been known as Cole's Station, or simply Coles.

These, however, are not the only nor even the most significant features in the history of this self-effacing memorial of the past: that it was a well-known local landmark, but absolutely unknown to any scientific observer; and that it was an object of idle curiosity to numbers of clam-devourers, attracted doubtless more by the neighboring sandy beach or by the opportunities for rowdy enjoyment than by the wonder and mystery of the rock. More important still is the fact that it was a familiar companion of the members, and a silent witness of the events in the history, of one of Rhode Island's most illustrious families,[4] on whose land it was situated. John Greene, one of the original proprietors of Warwick and a prominent man in its affairs, bought from Miantonomi and Soconoco on October 4, 1642, the 700-acre tract called Occupasuetuxet.[5] His son, John, "prominent and honored in public life," inherited this tract and called it Greene's Hold. Another son, James, settled at Potowomut, and a third son, Thomas, at "Greene's Stone Castle" in Old

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[1]Warwick Land Evidence, Book 35, p. 204; advertisement in *Providence Morning Herald*, June 14, 1867, p. 2, col. 6; *Providence Sunday Tribune*, Nov. 9, 1919, p. 2; Guide to Narragansett Bay, 1878, p. 37; *Providence Sunday Journal*, Nov. 28, 1920, sect. 3, p. 3, col. 6: "An Old-Time Fighting Resort."

[2]These *Collections*, 1918, xi 132, No. 88; 1919, xii 27, Nos. 96, 96 v, 96 vi.

[3]These *Collections*, 1919, xii 27, No. 96; xii 61, No. 133.

[4]See "The Greenes of Rhode Island," 1903, from which the information and quotations in this paragraph are drawn.

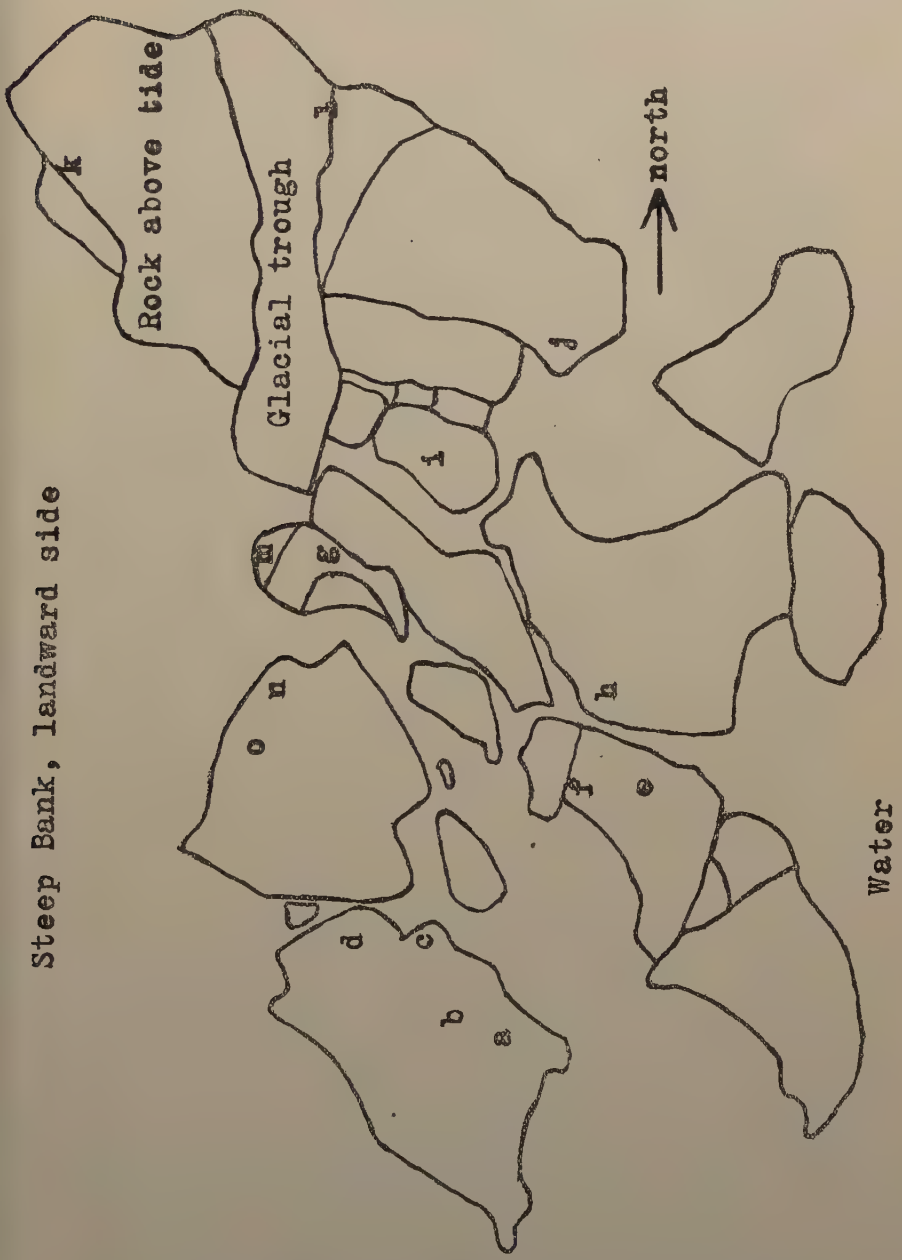
[5]This name has many variations in spelling. The preferable form should probably be either that of the deed, as above, or Occupessuatuxet, as Stiles carefully wrote it in 1770, doubtless from dictation by its then owners, or Occupasuatuxet, as adopted in "The Greenes of Rhode Island," probably as the later official spelling by the family. The many variants include: Occupasituxet, Octapaspatuxet, Occupasnetuxet, Occupasspatuxet, Occupessatuxet. The Chart of Narragansett Bay has substituted the name Turtle Cove for its neighboring water.

Warwick. The second John divided Greene's Hold between his son, Richard, who held the northern portion and continued to call it "Greene's Hold alias Occupasituxet," and whose descendants sold it in 1782 to John Brown, by whom it was called "Spring Green"; and his son, Job, who dwelt on the southern portion, called it "Pastuxet," and whose descendants sold in 1823 to the Cole family. Major Job is described as "a leading man of the town," and his home as "the centre of power and the seat of talent for the whole town." "The glory and hospitality of Pastuxet reached its height during the long life of Philip Greene, son of Job. Born in the old house in 1705, he died there full of honors in 1791. Like all his ancestors, he was Assistant and Deputy in the General Assembly, and in 1759 he became an Associate Justice of the Court of Common Pleas of Kent County, serving continuously on the bench of that court for 25 years, during eight of which, from 1776 to 1784, he was Chief Justice of the court, holding that high office through all the troublous years of the Revolution. He was of commanding presence and of able mind. Immensely patriotic, he gave largely of sheep, cattle and money to support the army. And he gave a son, his eldest, the brilliant Christopher Greene. The old house at Pastuxet was always filled with company in Judge Philip Greene's day. . . . All the famous men who gathered around Governor William Greene and General Nathaniel Greene were the honored guests of Judge Greene." His son, William, "possessed fine literary tastes and mathematical skill," and continued to dispense the traditional "open-handed and open-hearted hospitality" of this famous home. Clearly, the atmosphere and romance of the rock cannot be fully grasped without realizing its intimate association with this remarkable family.

Mark Rock is not a single rock, but an irregular ledge, broken up into a group of more or less fully separated fragments. Its general appearance is well indicated in the photograph of Plate XXII. Plate XXIII gives a plan of its more important separate divisions, to aid in locating the pictographs and inscriptions scattered irregularly over the surface. In length it extends about 75 feet north and south, parallel to the shore, and in width

about 50 feet. It is a "graywacke" rock, similar to most of the others in this region on which inscriptions have been made; or, more exactly, according to Professor C. W. Brown, to whom samples were submitted, it is a medium to fine grained gray feldspathic sandstone, slightly sheared. Behind the main part of the ledge is a smoothly worn glacial trough, beyond which a small section of rock climbs a steep bank, rising beyond the reach of the tides. All the rest is submerged at high water, and wholly exposed at low tide. The ledge slopes gently down eastward toward the water at an angle to the horizontal plane ranging usually from ten to twenty degrees. Most of the component rocks are convex on top in the direction of the slope, though a few are nearly flat and horizontal. They are worn smooth and striated by glacial action. The color is a light gray on the higher parts where the action of salt water and its deposits is least, of a decidedly reddish tinge in many parts of the middle zone, and dark gray in general on the lower portions. In a great many places, especially in the middle zone, decomposition has so affected the outer surface that it tends to scale off at intervals in thin laminae, thus producing the appearance that Stiles and Webb described, in other similar cases, as an "incrustation." Unfortunately this tendency has seriously marred some of the older inscriptions. All of the older artificial lines are pecked in. Some are very distinct and unmistakable. Many others are faint, illegible, darkened to the color of the surrounding surface, in some cases making it hard to tell whether they are artificial or natural. Mingled with them are also very many modern names and initials, some of them dated, which are pecked, chiseled or scratched in, or painted.

Besides modern names and initials, I have found eleven designs, figures or groupings of lines on this ledge, distinct enough to be recognized as clearly artificial. I have designated them by the letters *a* to *k*, inclusive. All of them except *k* are indistinguishable in color from the rock itself, so that except in favorable conditions of lighting some of them are hard to discover. This fact, together with injuries in some cases due to the scaling off of parts of the "incrustation," make it certain




Rough Plan of Mark Rock Ledge

After an aeroplane photograph taken by the writer May 28, 1920, checked by inspection. Letters indicate position of marks discussed in text.

that they are much older at least than any of the dated names. But *k* looks fresh and is lighter in color than the rock-surface. This may be because it is so high up on the ledge that it is never submerged. Still, the oldest of the dated names, which were made in 1827, are also of a much lighter gray than the surrounding rock, and these are covered at high tide; so that I judge that *k*, as well as these, may be relatively modern. There seems to be no clue to relative age in the width, depth or manner of incision of the lines of the different designs. Like all the pecked characters of the whole region, they were made by blows of a rather blunt hard point, of stone or metal, and are very irregular in both width and depth. In width, the lines vary between extremes of about 5 to 20 millimeters, tending to an average of 9 to 12; and in depth they run for the most part from 1 to 5 millimeters, averaging about 3.

Mr. John R. Hess has generously photographed most of the designs for us. In examining the results, it must be remembered that it was often impossible to set the camera directly over the rock-carvings, pointing perpendicularly toward them, as would have been desirable; and consequently these cases are pictured with some degree of perspective distortion. Moreover, the lighting was rarely such as to give the greatest possible relief and distinctness, so that in some of the reproductions the lines are presented with less of clearness than when they are viewed on the rock itself under the most favorable conditions of illumination and point of view. Whenever close study left little or no doubt as to what the artificial lines actually were, I rubbed into them in most cases a thin layer of fine dry sand, which renders them much more readily visible without seriously interfering with a minute examination of their structure even under a magnifying lens. I refrained from doing this, however, in all cases where I regarded the lines as doubtful and also where they were sufficiently distinguishable without it. The approximate location of the different designs or glyphs should be sought by aid of Plate XXIII. Their most important features are as follows, dimensions being given in inches:

*a* (Plate XXIV, upper left-hand cut).—Apparently an orna-

mental design. Difficult to discover in some lights, but may be found by noting its relation to the crack shown in the photograph. Diameter of inner central circle, 3½; of outer circle, 6½ to 8; length of the two attached arms, 8 to 8½; larger oval, 9½ by 13; its included circle, 3. Photographed from the north; sanded.

*b* (Plate XXIV, lower left-hand cut).—A human head and bust. Rather hard to find. Situated a little north of the middle of its rock-section, on the crest of its steepest slope, three feet west of *a*, five feet from north edge of rock. The surface here is much scaled, pitted, irregular and broken. Head about 4½ by 5, whole figure 7½ by 12. Photographed from northeast; sanded.

*c* (Plate XXIV, right-hand cut).—Apparently an irregular, complex, meaningless grouping of lines; some suggestion of a rude human figure. Covers a space about 12 by 28. Photographed from northeast; sanded.

*d* (Plate XXV, upper cut).—Unquestionably many hand-cut lines here, but most of them faint and uncertain, and the design, perhaps a meaningless complex, greatly damaged by extensive scaling off of the "incrustation." A space at least five feet square was apparently covered with incisions. Photographed from southeast. No sand used, in order that the photograph may be studied without prejudice.

*e* (Plate XXV, lower cut).—Apparently an ornamental design. Difficult to discover. On its particular rock-section, it lies about in the middle from east to west, its centre being two feet from the north edge of rock. The oval part measures 5½ by 8½. Photographed from directly above; sanded.

*f* (Figure 4).—Apparently a meaningless complex of lines, very indistinct, occupying a space measuring about 18 by 30. Impossible to photograph satisfactorily. I have attempted, however, a free-hand rendition of the lines as I see them, submitted with much uncertainty as to its correctness.

*g* (Plate XXVI, upper cut).—An ornamental scroll, measuring 10 by 11, with some neighboring curved lines and angles less easy to decipher. The regularity and beauty of the curves is

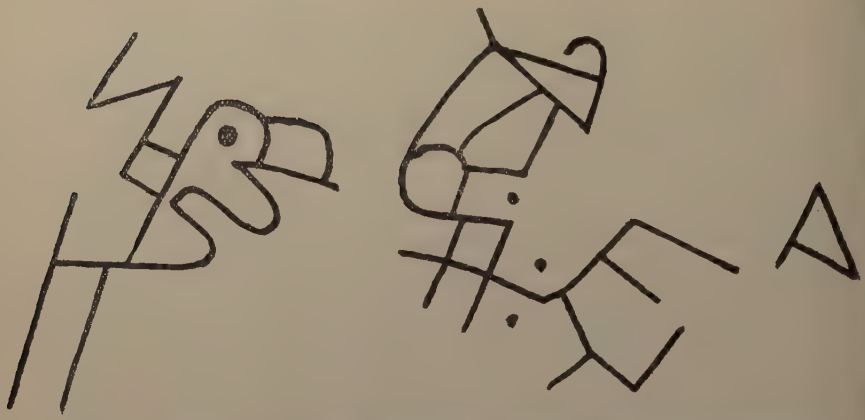
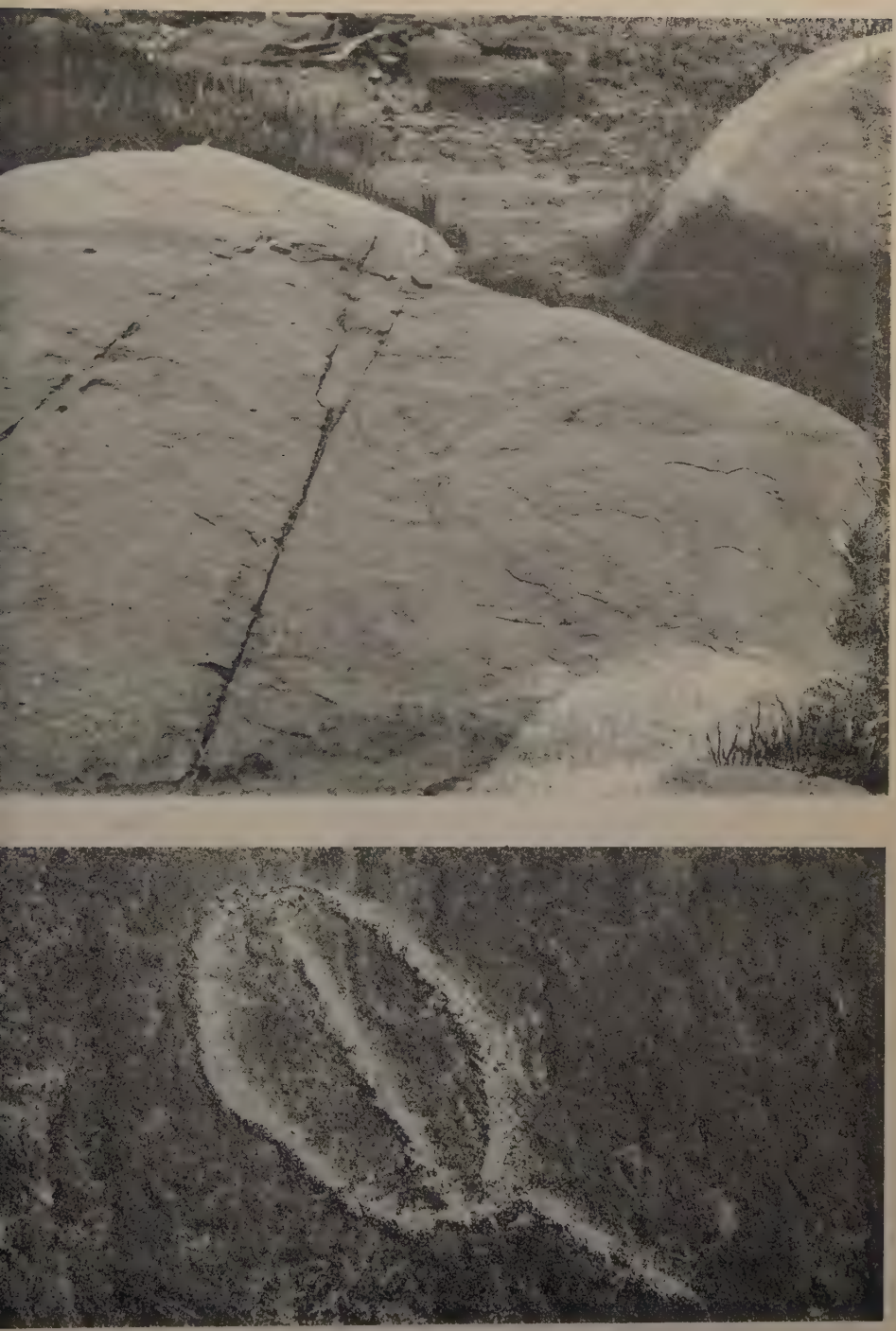


Figure 4. Sketch of probable markings in position *f;* looking northward

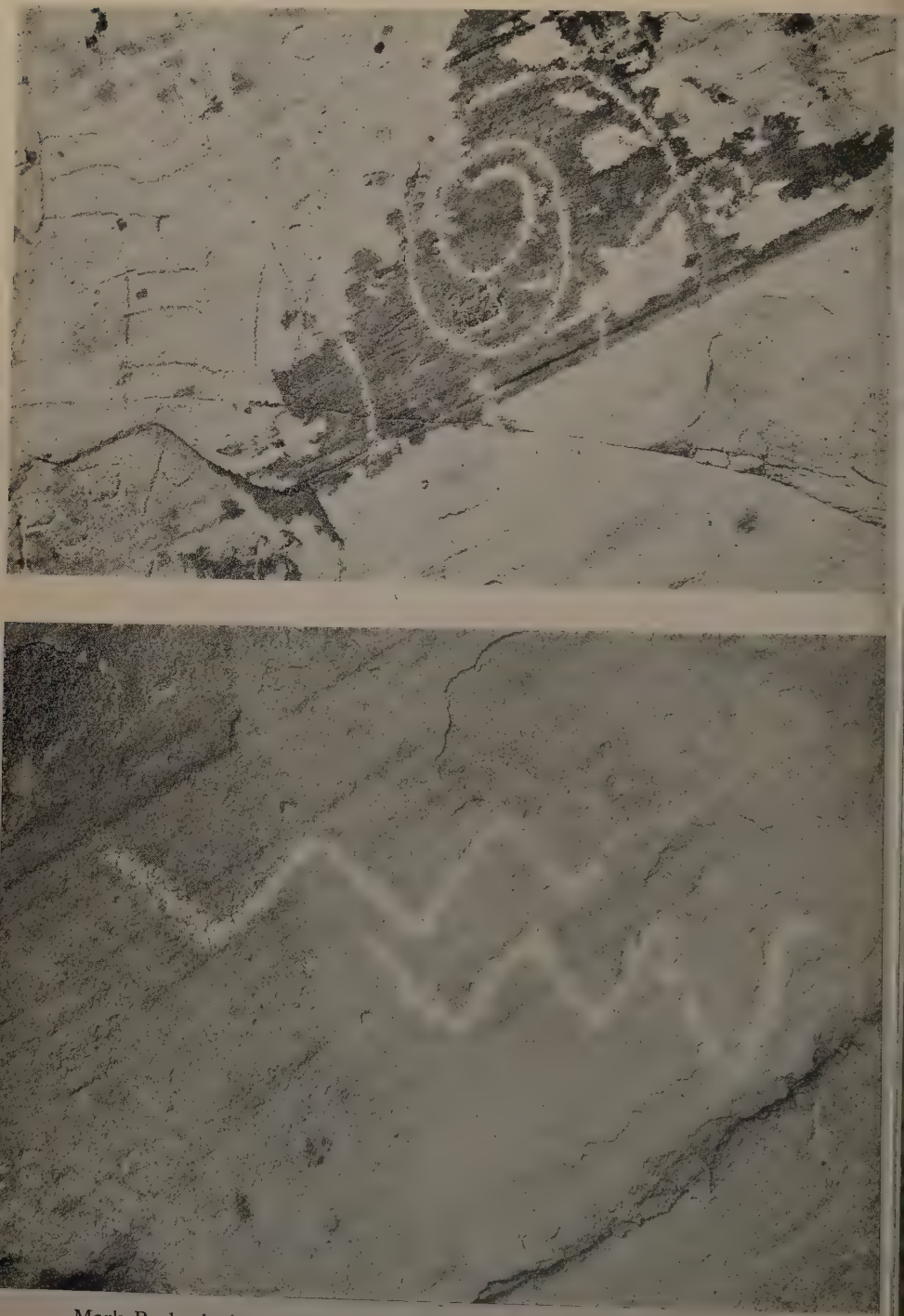
noticeable. Distinct on the rock, but not easy to photograph because partly covered by daubs of paint. Photographed from directly above; sanded.

*h* (Plate XXVI, lower cut).—For reasons given below, I class these zigzags as "signatures." Clearly observable. Together, they measure about 5 by 17. Photographed from directly above; sanded.

*i* (Plate XXVII).—A large section of the rock-surface here was originally covered with lines and figures, now greatly impaired by extensive scaling. The two photographs show portions of this surface, the upper one lying to the west of the other, with a space of about twelve inches between them that apparently contains little of interest. The area shown in the upper photograph measures a little under 18 by 24; that in the lower one, on a slightly different scale, about 19 by 29. The figures that remain near the bottom of the lower photograph are very distinct. One is somewhat boat-shaped, about 1¾ by 6. Across it, to the right of its centre, runs a line slanting upward to the left and disappearing in the scaled-off region; but it is fairly certain that its continuation can be traced within the latter, in spite of the scaling, and close examination makes it seem



Mark Rock glyphs *d* and *e*; photographed by John R. Hess, June 1, 1920.



Mark Rock glyphs *g* and *h*; photographed by John R. Hess, June 1, 1920.

probable that it ends in an arrow-point below the centre of the small island of unscaled surface within the scaled area. The whole figure, boat (or inverted bow) and arrow together, as we shall see later, constitutes a possible "signature." To the right of it lies what was once a definite and regular design, but now so mutilated that part of its original form and significance is uncertain. The diameter of each circle with inner dot is 2¾ inches; the distance between them, centre to centre, is 6½ below and 9 at the right. Besides the three circles clearly visible where no scaling has occurred, a fourth one can be unmistakably observed within the scaled area, 8 inches from its neighbor to the right and 8½ from that below. A fifth circle lies within, half on the scaled, half on the unscaled surface. All of the circles have inner dots. Joining the two to the right is a straight line and also, to its left, a second line triply curved. Between the two lower circles is a single straight line, and between those at the left a curved line. Whether a line joined the two at the top is uncertain. One further line is distinctly visible curving downward from the central circle. Other uncertain lines are dimly indicated. There is even a faint but wholly doubtful suggestion that the entire inner figure may have been a rosette somewhat like that described under *k*, below.

The designs of the upper photograph are less clear and certain. Carefully examined, however, they seem to include at least: (1) at the left, a fairly well-defined complex "turkey-track," or hand with spread fingers, or something similar, measuring about 5 by 7; (2) just below the centre, a clear circle, 2 inches in diameter, apparently with other uncertain lines appended; and below it, to the right, with a joining line, a somewhat goblet-shaped figure; the whole, together with a possible short line running leftward from the circle, suggesting a rather ludicrous representation of a bird; (3) in the centre, another somewhat boat-like or bow-like figure, about 2 by 5, apparently with a slightly curved line about four inches long running from it upward to the left, possibly ending in a faintly suggested arrow-point just below the upper margin of the picture; may be another "signature." Nothing more seems distinct enough even

to guess at. The photographs were taken looking vertically downward, without sanding.

*j* (Plate XXVIII, upper cut).—A rude human figure. Diameter of head, 2¾; entire figure, 5 by 12½. Photographed from directly above; sanded.

*k* (Plate XXVIII, lower cut).—An ornamental design, like a conventionalized rose; possibly modern. On highest part of ledge, above water. Central hole is ⅜ deep, ½ diameter, cup-shaped; diameter of circle, 2; of total figure, 11. There is a large E 2½ inches south of it, measuring 4 by 8; and the same distance northwest of it is an S, 5 by 9. Photographed from above; not sanded.

*l*.—This is a large, regularly shaped half-circumference, closed below by its 28-inch diameter; within, near the top, is a well-formed picture of an anchor, and along the diameter is written the name "Philip Greene," followed by the representation of a plough. It is situated at the edge of the glacial trough, and the lower part of it, including the name, is ordinarily covered by sand. It was made probably by the Philip, born in 1806 and married in 1832, who was the son of Thomas Lippitt Greene, son of the William who was the last one mentioned in our sketch of the family. Although not so stated in the family history, he seems to have indicated by his pictures that he combined the occupations of his father, a mariner, and of his grandfather, a farmer. The actual date of the inscription was very likely 1827, coincidently with two dated inscriptions, one of which also pictures an anchor. The lines are pecked in, but are narrower and shallower than most of those in the older inscriptions, being 3 to 6 millimeters wide and 2 to 3 millimeters deep.

*m*.—The name and date, "S. Low, 1827." It is scratched in, not pecked, with lines less than 3 millimeters wide and 2 to 3 deep.

*n*.—"I. W. Greene Oct. 14 1827" followed by an anchor. Lines scratched in, 2 millimeters or less wide and deep. This was very likely John Wickes Greene of the Stone Castle in Old Warwick, born 1809, married 1831, descended from Thomas, son of the first John, already mentioned. His occupation is not

given, but his father, Robert W., is described as a farmer and captain in the merchant marine. This probably accounts for the anchor.

*o*.—"Stephen A. Lockwood Au 19 1837." Letters scratched in, in double outline, only 1 or 2 millimeters deep and the single lines hardly a millimeter wide.

*p*.—Numerous more recent initials of no particular interest.

Although we have no mention of Mark Rock or of the "marked rocks," printed or documentary, earlier than 1847, the dates on the rock itself carry it back as a place for records to 1827. But every one of the glyphs which we have described under the designations *a* to *j* is unquestionably much more ancient than this. The later ones are all clear, fresh and distinct, of a decidedly lighter grayness than that of the untouched rock, although they are narrower and more shallow than the older ones; while the latter are dulled to the grayness of the rock, often look indistinct and difficult to distinguish from the natural striae and pittings, and are frequently badly dilapidated by time. Many of them, too, are of unquestionably Indian type, and therefore, since they clearly show that they are not modern imitations, are probably as old as early Colonial times at least. These ten first-named designs or groups include three irregular and apparently meaningless complexes of lines, *c, d* and *f*; three ornamental designs, *a, e* and *g,* of a regularity, beauty and skill in execution rare in the case of Indians, who may or may not have been the originators of all of them; two or three regular designs with probably definite symbolism, including a dilapidated and therefore uninterpretable collection of lines and circles, a circle by itself with uncertain attached lines, and a "turkey-track,"—all of them in *i*; two human figures, *b* and *j,* and possibly a third in *c*; and four characters that we have said may possibly be signatures. Separating those that are grouped in *i,* but leaving the complexes unanalyzed, this makes fifteen discoverable designs in all, not including those lettered *k* to *p*.

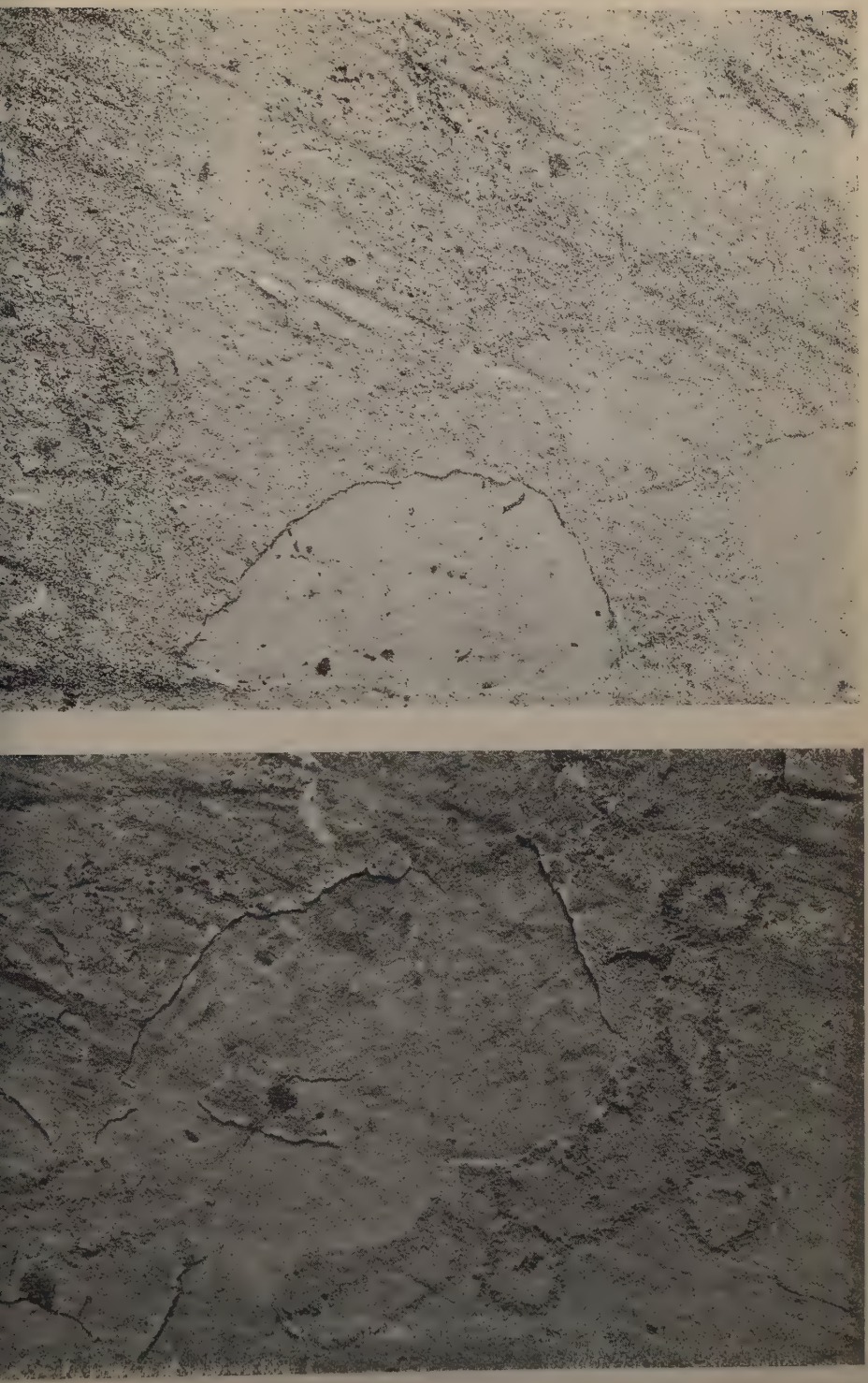
The irregular complexes are probably what they appear to be, mere meaningless scribblings, products of an unguided urge-to-do something. Our own children turn out something closely

similar in their ignorant attempts to draw or to imitate grown people's writing. It is not by any means improbable that in these rock-scribblings uninstructed red men may have been similarly trying to imitate what they had seen white men do; but of this we cannot, of course, be certain.

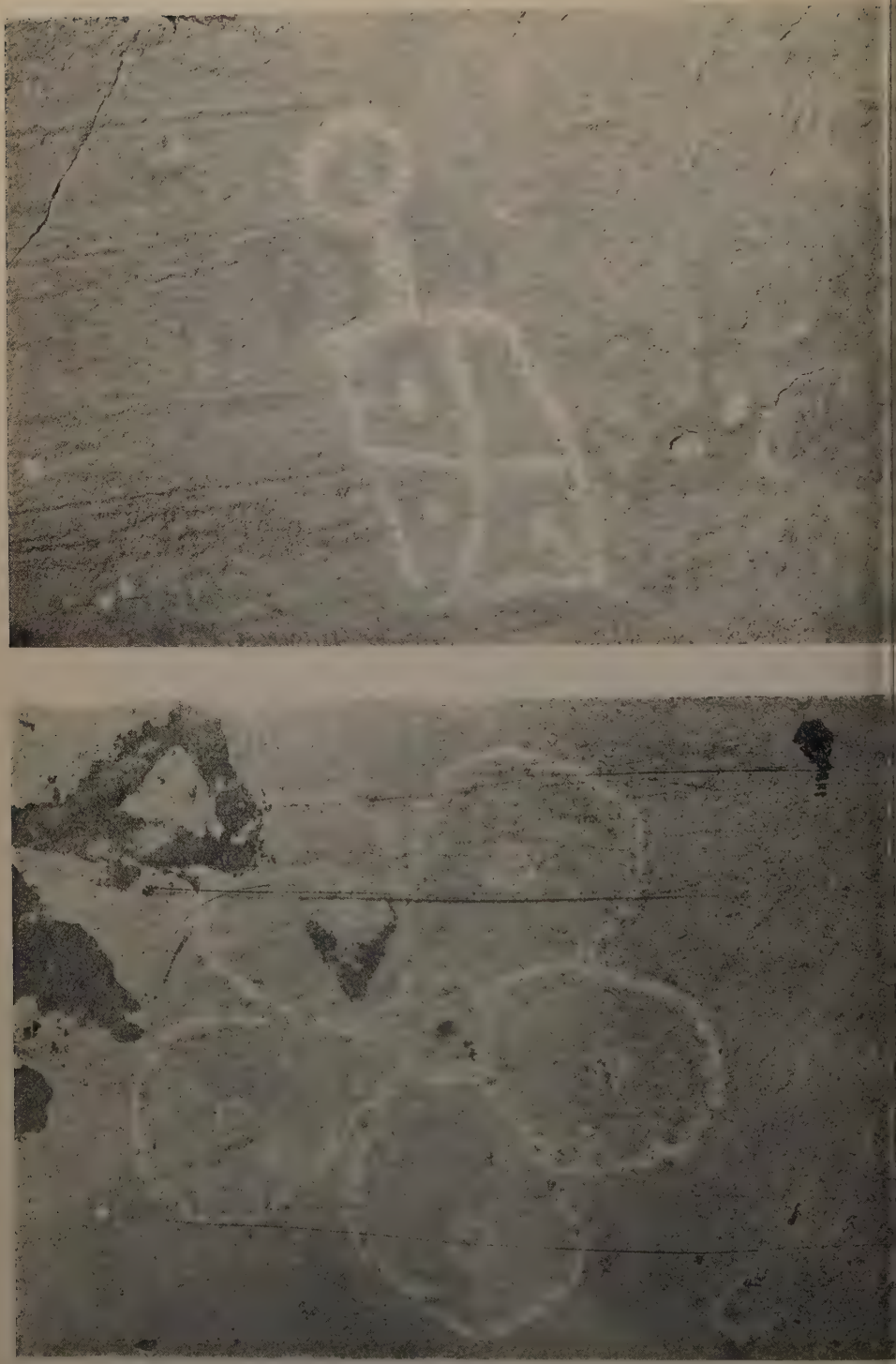
The human figure in *j* closely resembles that on the rock at Tiverton. The diagonal lines across the breast, and the prominent "buttons," strongly suggest a military uniform. It may well be that Indians attempted thus to picture a white soldier of early Colonial days, an impressive object in the experience of the aborigines. The militia of those days wore no regular uniform, it is true, but they did have to carry powder-flask, pouch for shot, provisions, and sometimes sword or bayonet, and these were supported often by straps crossed over the breast.[1] If this is the meaning of the rock-picture, it helps to fix the probable approximate date of these pictographs.

This indication of a definite date gains strength from the four designs that I have classed as possible signatures. As to whether they are truly such or not, it would be unwise to venture too confident a judgment. Indians often affixed marks as signatures to deeds and similar papers. A very few of them, perhaps including Philip with his P, may have adopted a definite design characteristic of the individual and invariably used by him. But most of them seem to have made a more or less different mark every time they signed, and different individuals often used similar marks. Many examples of such signatures are reproduced in Chapin's Documentary History of Rhode Island. Among them, the following, made between 1637 and 1645, may have some bearing upon our discussion and may serve as illustrations of the mingled variability and similarity in practice. On five papers, Canonicus signed with a bow-shaped figure twice, differing bow-and-arrow shapes twice, and another design once. Nine of Miantonomi's marks are shown, all differing from one another though with some resemblances: an arrow four times, a bow-and-arrow twice, and entirely different figures three times.

[1] E. McClennan, Historic Dress in America, i 346. Alice Morse Earle, Two Centuries of Costume in America, pp. 685-687.



Mark Rock glyphs in position *i*; photographed by John R. Hess, June 1, 1920.



Mark Rock glyphs *j* and *k*; photographed by John R. Hess, June 1, and May 29, 1920

Socononoco signed with differing bow-and-arrow figures four times. At least three other sachems used a bow-and-arrow mark during the same period, practically always with differences in detail. The arrow is represented sometimes by a straight or curved line only, sometimes as ending in an arrow-point. Usually the arrow is drawn starting naturally from the string, and crossing over and projecting beyond the curve of the bow. But in one case, illustrated below, the straight string is uppermost and the arrow, starting from it, projects upward away from the curve. Of course marks of many other shapes were used, besides those here mentioned.

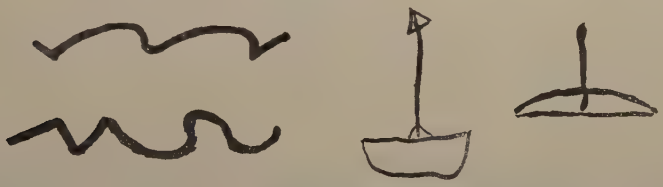


Figure 5. Indian Marks or Signatures: of Washaganesett (upper left), Wonimenatony (lower left), Miantonomi (middle), and Soconoco (right).

Four Indian signatures are reproduced in Figure 5. The first of them is that of Weshaganesett, and the second that of Wonimenatony, as they appear on papers signed at Aquidneck in 1639. The third is the way in which "Myantonomey," chief of the Narragansetts, wrote his mark on the deed of the lands of Shawomet to John Greene and others, 12 January 1642-3. The fourth is the mark of Soconoco as on the deed of Occupessuatuxet to John Greene in 1642.[1] It will be seen that the two parts of *h* on the rock (Plate XXVI) are as nearly exact duplicates of the signatures of the two first-named Indians as any two signatures of an Indian are of one another. The third signature greatly resembles the lowest left-hand design on *i* (Plate XXVII), not only in its inverted bow or boat-like shape, but also in respect to the line running from it and ending in an arrow-point. The other bow-like figure in the upper part

[1] H. M. Chapin, Documentary History of Rhode Island, i 167, 170, ii 73.

of *i* also is of about the same type as the many bow-and-arrow signatures spoken of above. These resemblances suggest strongly that one or both of these bow-like designs on the rock may have been made by Miantonomi or Soconoco, who sold the adjoining lands in 1642, or by some other sachem who was accustomed to sign his name in this manner. We thus have four cases of close correspondence between rock-carvings and documentary signatures. One instance of such resemblance might well be attributed to chance. But where there are so many, in spite of variability in signatures of individuals, it becomes highly probable that the two sachems of Aquidneck, and one or more of the other Indians mentioned, having learned from the whites to use these marks, at some time not far removed from 1640 thus carved their name-symbols upon the surface of this rock.

I have enquired of residents near the rock as to whether any local legends or theories survive concerning it. The only indication of such that I have found was related to me by Col. H. Irving King of Apponaug. He writes: "The only legend in regard to 'Mark Rock' is that it was inscribed by the Norsemen and that the inscription is similar to that on the Dighton Rock. This is the belief among the remnants of the old settlers of Old Warwick. In the Greene family I know the Norse legend still persists. In my early youth in this village I heard Indian legends about a great number of places in the town but never a word about 'Mark Rock' in connection with the aborigines. The ascription of the marking on the rock to the Northmen is evidently a transference of the myth—if it is a myth—of the Dighton Rock to the one at Cole's Station."

There is no doubt that there is no more reason to attribute the inscriptions on New England rocks to Norsemen than to Phoenicians or Druids. The Warwick rock itself proves the mixed Indian and white-American origin of its markings, more clearly and certainly than is the case with any others of the rocks that we have studied. It is thus the most illuminating and instructive of them all. It has lain at our door with its lessons, in all probability, as long as any of them. But it has eluded all scientific observers, so that only now can its lessons be read.

Among these, the following at least are important probabilities—I do not speak of them as certainties, for in a field like this it is difficult to speak of many conclusions as absolutely sure:

1. The markings are scattered, individual, unrelated, like the modern initials. They do not tell a single connected story. Many an attempt has been made to force the characters on Dighton Rock to do this, but such unified interpretations of it are all futile. On the other hand, it has been surmised, by myself and others, but without complete proof, that the carvings on nearly all these rocks, however crowded together on one surface, were made by many different individuals, on different occasions, through a considerable period of time. We may say that this is practically proven for Mark Rock, and thus its probability in the other cases is greatly strengthened.

2. I have elsewhere advanced rather strong evidence that the Portuguese explorer, Miguel Cortereal, may have been the first to use Dighton Rock as a recording surface, in 1511, and that later the Indians, following his example, acquired the habit of doing the same. In seems not unlikely that Indians, again following the example of white men's writings, first made use of Mark Rock's tempting surface sometime between 1620 and 1650, and that the practice continued at intervals, ending probably with the scattering of the race at the close of King Philip's War.

3. Some of the marks here, due to the Indians, are almost certainly meaningless scribblings, and others equally meaningless decorative designs. Our already expressed belief that this is true in other cases thus gains support.

4. Very few of the marks here seem to have any possible symbolic significance. Where such exists, it is individual and trivial, either a name, or an object like the soldier that had attracted interested attention. There is no story told, no historical event indicated, no information conveyed. This is not true, of course, of all Indian writings; but, so far as I have studied them, it seems to apply to a great many of their petroglyphic efforts everywhere. It is not impossible that the obliterated portions of the records here may have contained some small fea-

ture conveying more elaborate meaning, yet there is no indication of it now.

5. If our surmise about the signatures is correct, then some of the marks are provably of Indian origin, and of early Colonial date. The figures which, here and elsewhere, probably represent Colonial soldiers, and our interpretation of the scribblings as inspired by white example, point with some force to the same conclusion. The belief that Indians, some at least, if not all, in early Colonial times, were responsible for the puzzling and much controverted markings on all the other rocks of the region, thus gains strength.

6. White men, after the Indians had gone, and because the Indians had begun the practice, carved not only their names and initials here, but also occasionally ornamental and symbolic designs, as is shown by the plough and anchors at least. Some of the earlier and better executed scrolls, and the rosette at *k*, may have been made by them instead of by Indians, but this is not sure. In like manner they carved initials, at least, in other localities, on all similar rocks to which their attention has been drawn. Those at Tiverton have thus far providentially escaped.

If these conclusions, all or most of them, can be accepted, then it is true that Mark Rock, so easily accessible yet so curiously elusive heretofore, contributes a great deal toward the solution of many perplexing questions about the numerous written rocks of this region that could not be decisively answered without its aid.

## Form of Legacy

*"I give and bequeath to the Rhode Island Historical Society the sum of ..... dollars."*